THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Government have introduced a medical scheme known as Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme on the pattern of Central Government Health Scheme with effect from 1.4.2003. The scheme, contributory in nature, would cater for medicare of all ex-servicemen in receipt of pension including disability and family pensioners as also dependents to include wife/ husband, legitimate children and wholly dependent parents. The scheme would establish new armed forces polyclinics at 123 non-military stations and augmented armed forces clinics at 104 military stations spread across the country. The scheme will be implemented spread over a period of five years.

Licence for Chinese drugs

780. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after granting Registration Certificates to the Chinese suppliers the DCI office is not granting Form 10 import licence for the products like Rifampicin;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many applications are pending for more than two to three months, affecting the trade to a great extent; and

(c) the reasons for this kind of confusion prevailing in the department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A new system of registration for foreign manufacturers of drugs for giving license for import of drugs has come into effect from 1.4.03. After the publication of the new requirements, a large number of applications were received for registration as well as issue of licenses. The DCG(I) office has issued 1517 Import Licenses on Form 10 during the period 1.10.2002 to 15.7.2003. The issuance of Form 10 is a continuous process and is subject to the provision of all required documents by the applicant. For disposal of applications of registration a time of nine months to one year has been provided. Licenses are normally issued within one month subject to all documents being in order.

There was a delay in issuance of Form 10 license in respect of Rifampicin, which was earlier in the restricted ITC(HS) classification of Export and Import Policy items 2002-07, and was made free by notification No. 02/(RE-2003)/2002-2007 dated 31.3.03. As this drug was earlier imported against Advance licence, to ascertain the testing and quality of the product, the Zonal Officer was requested to inform the factual position, which has now been received. Applications for Form 10 Import Licence in respect of Rifampicin have now been issued.

Birth /Mortality/Infant Mortality Rate

781. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the birth/death/infant mortality rate in Madhya Pradesh, U.P. and Jharkhand in the last decade;

(b) its comparison *vis-a-vis* the States like Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce the birth rate as well as infant mortality rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Statements showing birth/death/infant mortality rates as per the Sample Registration System (SRS) are given in the enclosed Statement I, II & III (*See* below).

(c) The following steps are being taken by Government to reduce the birth rate as well as infant mortality rate:

- An integrated and holistic programme for Reproductive and Child Health and Contraception has been in operation. New measures of contraception-Copper T 380 A and Emergency contraception pills for women have been introduced.
- Government has adopted a National Population Policy (NPP) in February, 2000, which provides for an inter-sectoral agenda to bring about population stabilization, with Community involvement in administering family planning services.
- Meeting the unmet needs of health infrastructure, health personnel and contraception and providing integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care.